

Annual Report

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

West Kent Combined Sanitary District

*of the separate divisions
reports also under
name
of place*

IN

1896.

The West Kent Combined Sanitary District includes the Rural Districts of Bromley, Cranbrook, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tenterden and Tonbridge; and the Urban Districts of Sevenoaks, Southborough, Tenterden and Tonbridge.

The **Population** was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **136,249** at the middle of the year, showing an increase of 1,866 since the middle of 1895.

Three thousand four hundred and seventeen births were registered during the year, including 1,755 of males and 1,662 of females.

The **Birth-rate** was **25.0** per 1,000 of population living in the District, as compared with 25.9 in 1895.

The lowest birth-rates were 19.4 in the Sevenoaks Urban District, and 21.8 in the Cranbrook Rural District.

The Tenterden Urban District and the Sevenoaks Rural District showed the highest birth-rates, being 28.8 and 29.1 respectively.

The number of deaths returned amounted to 1,877, consisting of 985 of males and 892 of females.

The general **Death-rate** of the Combination was **13.0** per 1,000 living; the variations during seven years are shown in Table I.

The lowest death-rates were 9.9 and 10.7 in the Sevenoaks Urban and Cranbrook Rural Districts, respectively, whilst the highest recorded were 15.0 in the Southborough Urban, and 16.4 in the Maidstone Rural Districts.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Of the total 1,877 deaths, 190 were caused by one or other of the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz.: 9 by scarlet fever, 37 by diphtheria, (including membranous croup) 10 by enteric fever, 68 by measles, 41 by whooping-cough, and 25 by diarrhoea.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** was **1.3** for the whole District.

The lowest zymotic death-rates were 0.6 in the Tonbridge Urban, and 0.3 in the Cranbrook Rural; the highest were 3.1 in the Southborough Urban, and 2.4 in the Maidstone Rural.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age, per 1,000 births registered, was 107 throughout the Combined District, varying from a minimum of 73 in the Sevenoaks Urban to a maximum of 192 in the Southborough Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force throughout the District since 1890—the diseases notified are those mentioned in the Act. During the year, 1,036 notifications were received, as compared with 950 in 1895, and 1,134 in 1894, and comprised 7 of small-pox, 662 of scarlet fever, 188 of diphtheria, (including ten of membranous croup) 52 of enteric fever, 5 of puerperal fever, and 122 of erysipelas. 29.3 per cent. of notified cases were treated in Isolation Hospitals.

Small-Pox. Seven cases were reported as against 15 in 1895 and 13 in 1894. None were fatal. Four were distinctly traced to the initial case of a tramp, whose progress was followed and the movements of those with whom he came in intimate contact in common lodging houses, were as far as possible ascertained, with the result that the disease was stamped out in each District where it arose.

The following is the progress of the cases :—

On March 27th, information was sent to me by the Medical Officer to the London County Council, that a man had been removed on March 25th, from a common lodging house in London to one of the Metropolitan Asylums Board Small-pox Hospitals, and that this man had slept at a common lodging house at Tonbridge, on March 12th, and on 20th, 21st and 22nd, at a lodging house at Sevenoaks. The lodging houses at both these places were inspected, disinfected, bedding was burnt and all other possible precautions taken, including the keeping of a list of those frequenting the houses, stating where they had come from and where going.

Case I. The first case which arose in this District was that of a man who presented himself at the casual ward of the Tonbridge Workhouse, Pembury, on April 10th, being in the pustular state of the disease, and having slept at the Tonbridge lodging house on the same night as the man isolated in London. This man was isolated at the Capel Hospital.

Case II. On April 16th, a daughter of the lodging house keeper at Sevenoaks was attacked and successfully isolated by that Urban Authority. This was by far the most severe case.

Case III. and IV. The two next cases were those of two young children of a tin hawker, who had slept in the room adjoining that occupied by Case I., at the Tonbridge lodging house. They were found to be suffering from the disease in the vesicular stage, at Marden, on April 27th, and were isolated at once by the Maidstone Rural Authority at Coxheath.

Case V. was a mild case of the disease at Sevenoaks, probably contracted in London.

Case VI. and VII. On June 16th, a young man came with his brother from his home at Mile End, London, to pick fruit at Orpington, and not feeling well came to the casual ward of the Bromley Union Workhouse, and was found to be suffering from Small-pox. On July 10th, his brother, who had occupied the same hut at Orpington during fruit-picking, was attacked. Both were treated in an isolated block of the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following were the age periods at which the disease occurred :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
1	1	2	3	—7 cases.

Scarlet Fever. Nine of the total 662 proved fatal, giving a case mortality of 1.3 per cent.

The greatest number of cases occurred in the Sevenoaks Rural District, viz. : 233 with 3 deaths, and in the Bromley Rural District, where there were 129 cases with 2 deaths.

The Scarlet Fever Death-rate was 0.06 per 1,000 of the population, and 40.6 per cent. of the cases were treated in Isolation Hospitals.

The incidence and mortality at the different periods of life is as shown below :—

0—1 years.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
6	117	440	60	39	—662 cases.
1	3	5	0	0	—9 deaths.

DIPHTHERIA, (including Membranous Croup).

This disease was prevalent throughout the whole Combined District, and was in some localities of a virulent type.

One hundred and eighty-eight cases were notified, 37 of which ended fatally, giving a case-mortality of 19.6 per cent., and a Diphtheria death-rate of 0.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The cases and mortality at different ages were as follows :—

0—1 years.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
3	39	90	31	25	—188 cases.
0	15	16	4	2	—37 cases.

The case-mortality of those under 5 years was 35.7 per cent., while that of persons over 5 years of age, was 15.0 per cent.

The quarterly notifications and deaths were as follows :—

Quarter.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Percentage of Death.
1st	44	4	9.0
2nd	32	4	12.5
3rd	59	18	30.5
4th	53	11	20.7
	188	37	14.3

The incidence of Diphtheria on the Urban Districts was 1.6 cases per 1,000 of the population, with a case-mortality of 13.2 per cent., that on the Rural Districts was 1.3 per 1,000, with a case-mortality of 19.0 per cent.

Membranous Croup is included under Diphtheria ; several of the fatal cases notified as Membranous Croup being designated as Diphtheria in the death returns. The diseases are now generally regarded as being identical, Membranous Croup and laryngeal diphtheria being synonymous terms. 90 per cent. of the cases notified as Membranous Croup died.

Enteric Fever was somewhat more prevalent than during the previous year, there being 52 cases with 10 deaths, against 47 cases and 4 deaths in 1895.

The case-mortality was 19.2 per cent., and the Enteric Fever death-rate 0.07 per 1,000 of the population.

The following shows the fatality at different age periods :—

1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	
2	9	19	22	—52 cases.
0	1	3	6	—10 deaths.

The disease was distributed throughout the year, thus :—

January	...	2 cases.	July	...	...	4 cases.
February	...	2 „	August	...	4 „	
March	...	5 „	September	...	8 „	
April	...	2 „	October	...	6 „	
May	...	1 case.	November	...	6 „	
June	...	3 cases.	December	...	9 „	
		15			37	

None of the Districts were entirely free from Enteric Fever, but in the Tenterden Rural and Urban, Sevenoaks Urban and Southborough Urban Districts, only one non-fatal case occurred in each.

The District most affected was the Tonbridge Urban, with 13 cases and 3 deaths.

Erysipelas showed an increase, rising from 94 cases and 5 deaths in 1895, to 122 cases and 5 deaths. The latter occurred, 2 in the Sevenoaks Rural and 3 in the Maidstone Rural Districts, and the case-mortality was 4.0 per cent.

The following shows the age-periods of the notified cases :—

0—1 years.	1—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—65 years.	65 years and upwards.	
2	4	9	21	75	11	—122 cases.
0	0	0	1	2	2	—5 deaths.

Puerperal Fever was five times notified, two of the cases ending fatally. They occurred, one in each of the Rural Districts of Tonbridge and Cranbrook.

NON-NOTIFIABLE ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Measles. Of all the zymotic diseases, Measles has caused by far the greatest number of deaths.

Sixty-eight were registered during the year, 52 of which were of children under 5 years of age. They were distributed as follows :—

16	in the	Maidstone Rural District
14	„ „	Bromley „ „
13	„ „	Southborough Urban „
7	„ „	Sevenoaks „ „
6	„ „	Sevenoaks Rural „
5	„ „	Tonbridge „ „
3	„ „	Cranbrook „ „
2	„ „	Tenterden Urban „
1	„ „	Tenterden Rural „
1	„ „	Tonbridge Urban „

The Measles death-rate was 0.4 per 1,000 of the population.

Whooping-cough. This disease was usually concurrent with Measles, and also caused a high mortality of 41 deaths.

The Urban and Rural Districts of Tenterden were alone free from deaths from Whooping-cough. As usual it was particularly fatal among very young children, and only 5 of the 41 deaths were of those over five years of age.

The deaths occurred, 3 in the Bromley, 9 in the Sevenoaks, 9 in the Tonbridge, 1 in the Cranbrook, and 9 in the Maidstone Rural Districts. Of the Urban Districts, Sevenoaks suffered most severely, 7 deaths occurring, whilst 2 occurred in the Tonbridge, and one in each of the Tenterden and Southborough Urban Districts. The Whooping-cough death-rate was 0.3 per 1,000.

Diarrhœa caused 25 deaths, 17 of which were of children under 5 years of age. The Cranbrook and Tenterden Rural Districts alone were free from deaths from this disease.

The death-rate was 0.1 per 1,000.

Influenza caused 24 deaths, all of which occurred in the Rural Districts, viz.: 6 in Bromley, 4 in Sevenoaks, 5 in Tonbridge, 5 in Cranbrook, 1 in Tenterden, and 3 in Maidstone.

Phthisis. One hundred and sixty-nine deaths were registered from Phthisis, 15 of which were of persons under 5 years of age, giving a death-rate of 1.24 per 1,000 persons living in the District.

Isolation.—The following is a summary of the isolation accommodation provided in the several Districts :—

Rural.

Bromley.—Good accommodation in the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Isolation Hospital.

Cranbrook.—Nil.

Maidstone.—Tents, and temporary wood and iron structure for 4 beds : quite inadequate.

Sevenoaks.—Two Berthon Tents, capable of accommodating 6—8 beds : totally inadequate.

A portable steam disinfecter is available.

Tenterden.—Nil.

Tonbridge.—Permanent Hospital for about 20 beds. Hot air disinfecter. Very fair provision.

Urban.

Sevenoaks.—Cottage for 5 patients. The Council now actively engaged in making further provisions.

Southborough.—Good permanent hospital. Steam disinfecter.

Tenterden.—Nil.

Tonbridge.—Permanent Hospital. Further improvements now proposed. Hot air disinfecter.



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The birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1896, was, according to the Registrar-General's quarterly returns, 29.7 per 1,000 of population; the death-rate was 17.1, which is lower than the rate in any previous year, excepting 1894, and 1.7 below the average of the ten years, 1886—1895. The Zymotic Death-rate was 2.18.

The Death-rates for the seven principal zymotic diseases were as follows :—

Small-pox, 0.02; Measles, 0.56; Scarlet Fever, 0.18; Diphtheria, 0.29; Whooping-cough, 0.41; Fever, 0.17; Diarrhœa, 0.55.

The Infant Mortality was 148.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

James Scott Tew.

March 10th, 1897.

TABLE I.

The General Death-rate from Zymotic Diseases and the Infant Mortality in the West Kent Sanitary Combination, in each of the seven years ending December, 1896.

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
General Death-rate of the whole Combination ...	14.3	15.7	15.6	14.4	14.3	15.0	13.0
General Death-rate in the six Rural Districts ...	14.9	15.4	15.4	14.5	13.1	15.4	13.5
General Death-rate in the four Urban Districts	12.8	17.1	16.4	13.8	13.4	14.5	12.9
Zymotic Death-rate of the whole Combination ...	1.07	1.30	0.94	1.11	1.05	0.91	1.3.9
Zymotic Death-rate in the six Rural Districts ...	1.11	1.24	1.09	1.42	0.99	0.88	1.18
Zymotic Death-rate in the four Urban Districts	0.99	1.62	0.97	0.92	1.34	0.95	1.80
<i>Deaths of Infants under one year to each 1000 births registered :</i>							
Deaths of Infants in the whole Combination ...	114	120	116	108	101	107	111
Deaths of Infants in the six Rural Districts ...	115	116	118	106	100	114	108
Deaths of Infants in the four Urban Districts ...	108	140	104	121	112	96	109

TABLE II.

The Rural and Urban Districts of the West Kent Combination, showing the General Death-Rates, the Zymotic Death-Rates, and the Infant Mortality, in each of the five years ending December, 31st, 1896.

		Area in Acres.	Population Census, 1891.	Death-Rate from all causes.					Death-Rate from Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.					Infant Mortality, under One Year, Per 1000 Births Registered.				
				1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Rural Districts—																		
Cranbrook	13730	14.4	15.0	13.5	13.7	10.7	0.3	2.3	0.3	0.6	0.3	85	91	105	99	90
Bromley	26852	14.2	15.9	11.8	14.0	11.4	0.8	1.6	1.4	0.8	1.1	109	158	82	121	112
Sevenoaks	22387	14.0	12.4	12.8	13.2	12.5	1.4	1.3	0.7	0.5	1.1	97	76	97	91	119
Tonbridge	17831	16.9	13.6	13.4	17.1	14.2	0.8	1.7	0.4	1.1	1.6	118	88	106	138	115
Tenderden	6537	18.3	15.0	11.5	15.1	15.8	1.8	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.6	112	65	97	101	95
Maidstone	15907	17.4	16.0	14.8	19.3	16.4	0.7	1.7	1.5	1.6	2.4	129	110	110	139	116
Urban Districts—																		
Sevenoaks	7610	15.9	12.8	13.1	10.0	9.9	0.5	0.9	2.0	0.3	2.3	92	87	98	112	73
Tonbridge	10117	16.3	14.4	12.1	13.1	13.2	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.2	0.6	112	134	93	106	87
Tenderden	3429	19.1	14.2	14.0	22.0	13.5	1.8	0.3	0.3	2.0	1.2	79	180	111	81	83
Southborough	5418	15.8	13.8	15.5	12.9	15.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	121	133	157	88	192

TABLE III.—DEATHS during the year 1896, in the Rural and Urban Districts of the West Kent Combination, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.																					
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and 25 under 25	25 and 65 under 65	65 and up- wards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
Bromley R.S.D.	375	83	36	24	18	128	86	Under 5 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	3	6	...	5	18	...	...	...	1	70	118
Sevenoaks "	293	70	16	16	20	76	95	5 upwds. ...	...	3	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	31	24	33	6	...	6	145	257
Tonbridge "	307	60	30	15	13	82	107	5 upwds. ...	...	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	24	38	31	4	...	4	94	207
Cranbrook "	148	27	12	4	6	50	49	Under 5 ...	...	5	3	...	1	...	...	...	2	7	2	...	33	21	34	4	...	2	114	217
Tenterden "	93	14	5	8	5	28	33	5 upwds. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	25	39
Maidstone "	304	53	29	17	10	90	105	Under 5 ...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	11	12	3	...	...	70	109
Sevenoaks U.S.D.	82	12	9	10	3	25	23	5 upwds. ...	...	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	14	...	8	...	2	40	74
Tonbridge "	127	22	12	7	4	38	44	Under 5 ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	5	2	...	...	26	25	...	3	5	121	221
Tenterden "	53	8	4	1	4	16	20	5 upwds. ...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	8	9	...	...	2	32	61
Southboro' "	95	32	16	6	3	16	22	Under 5 ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	15	34
								5 upwds.	1	5	5	1	23	41
								Under 5 ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	9	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	48
								5 upwds. ...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	5	7	4	...	...	...	24	47
Totals ...	1877	381	169	108	86	549	584	Under 5 ...	...	8	7	...	1	...	...	...	52	36	17	...	15	89	3	3	...	1	312	549
								5 upwds. ...	...	20	2	9	9	...	...	2	16	5	8	4	154	161	167	21	22	727	1328	

TABLE IV.

The number of Deaths from all causes and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases with their Death Rates; the principal causes of Death and the Infant Mortality in the West Kent Combined Sanitary District in each Quarter of the year 1896.

Quarters.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate per 1000	Deaths from 7 principal Zymotic Diseases.	Zymotic Death Rate	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Fevers.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	Diarrhœa.	Influenza.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	Other Diseases.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births registered.
1st ..	498	13.8	43	1.2	...	3	4	...	...	23	10	3	11	...	1	...	38	92	48	4	261	123
2nd...	431	12.0	43	1.2	...	1	4	...	2	21	11	4	5	...	..	2	47	54	34	6	239	86
3rd ...	453	12.5	67	1.9	...	2	14	4	3	14	15	15	3	1	2	2	44	24	38	6	266	120
4th ...	495	13.7	37	1.0	..	3	6	5	5	10	5	3	5	1	2	1	40	80	50	7	273	99
Totals	1877	13.0	190	1.3	...	9	28	9	10	68	41	25	24	2	5	5	169	250	170	23	1039	107

TABLE V.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the West Kent Combined Sanitary District, during the past ten years, and in 1896.

Zymotic Diseases.	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	Average of ten Years.	1896
Small-pox	11	...	..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1.3	0
Scarlet Fever	5	1	5	7	6	5	6	21	13	5	7.4	9
Diphtheria	28	43	18	25	34	23	56	79	51	29	38.6	37
Fevers	15	17	18	14	9	13	6	15	12	4	12.3	10
Measles	37	41	12	34	19	47	20	20	13	15	25.8	68
Whooping-cough	30	19	55	27	64	76	22	30	60	25	40.8	41
Diarrhœa	79	57	31	40	20	17	34	44	19	48	38.9	25
Total seven Zymotics	205	178	139	147	152	181	146	209	168	126	165.1	190
Other Zymotics	43	39	31	27	56	63	156	104	62	77	65.8	31
Totals	248	217	170	174	208	244	302	313	230	203	230.9	221

TABLE VI.

Showing the number of Cases notified under the Compulsory Notification of Diseases Act in each of the ten Districts of the West Kent Combination, and the Deaths registered from each of these diseases in 1896.

RURAL AND URBAN DISTRICTS.	Estimated Population in 1896.	Small-pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria.		Membranous Group.		Enteric Fever.		Other Fevers.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Totals.	
		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Bromley ... Rural	30155	2	..	129	2	21	4	1	1	9	2	..	..	1	..	35	...	198	9
Sevenoaks ... "	23227	...	...	233	3	26	3	1	1	7	2	...	...	1	...	22	2	290	11
Tonbridge ... "	18051	1	...	76	1	53	8	3	3	8	2	...	...	1	1	26	...	168	15
Cranbrook ... "	13713	...	..	72	1	14	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	1	10	...	102	2
Tenterden ... "	6383	...	...	13	1	3	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	20	3
Maidstone ... "	16129	2	..	37	1	18	6	...	...	6	1	...	...	1	..	14	3	78	11
Sevenoaks ... Urban	8425	2	...	6	...	8	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	..	...	1	...	19	4
Tonbridge ... "	10527	...	...	52	...	11	...	...	...	13	3	...	...	...	...	8	...	84	3
Tenterden ... "	3332	...	...	1	...	7	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	11	1
Southborough ... "	6307	43	...	17	2	2	2	1	3	...	66	4
Totals	136249	7	...	662	9	178	28	10	9	52	10	5	2	122	5	1036	63

REPORT

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BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW,

M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

